

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

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For Release:

October 20, 2005

**HIGHLIGHTS OF NEW ORLEANS, LA
NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY DECEMBER 2004**

Workers in the New Orleans metropolitan area averaged \$16.76 per hour during December 2004, according to a new survey released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman reported that white-collar workers averaged \$22.26 per hour and accounted for 47 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$14.54 per hour and represented 27 percent of the workforce, while the remainder worked in service occupations and earned \$8.30 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments with 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 200 firms representing 261,600 workers in the New Orleans metropolitan area, which is comprised of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany Parishes in Louisiana. Seventy-six percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the New Orleans metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 48 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, computer systems analysts and scientists averaged \$43.11 per hour; registered nurses, \$30.45; and secretaries, \$13.34. Blue-collar occupations included welders and cutters at \$16.74 per hour and water and sewer treatment plant operators at \$11.77. In the service occupations, public service police and detectives averaged \$15.86 per hour; cooks, \$10.37; and nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants, \$7.66.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the New Orleans metropolitan area averaged \$17.86 per hour and part-timers earned \$7.45. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$17.27 per hour, while their nonunion counterparts made \$13.70. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$14.26 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$19.16.

National Compensation Survey, New Orleans, LA, December 2004 (continued)

The NCS is part of a statistical program that integrates three previously separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the New Orleans, LA National Compensation Survey December 2004 (Bulletin 3130-18). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Dallas Information Office by calling 214-767-6970. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm>. This release can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in Dallas by dialing 214-767-9613 and requesting document 9534.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Dallas Information Office at 214-767-6970 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings¹, all workers²: Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, New Orleans, LA, December 2004

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$16.76	5.0	\$16.31	6.4	\$18.28	3.0
All excluding sales	16.82	5.1	16.36	6.7	18.28	3.0
White collar	22.26	4.6	22.02	6.3	22.86	3.1
White collar excluding sales	22.87	4.6	22.88	6.4	22.86	3.1
Professional specialty and technical	27.44	4.7	28.33	7.2	26.04	2.8
Professional specialty	29.52	5.9	31.03	9.7	27.60	2.9
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	39.89	12.3	40.24	12.5	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	43.27	8.6	—	—	—	—
Computer systems analysts and scientists	43.11	9.8	44.77	9.9	—	—
Natural scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	29.94	6.2	31.10	9.0	27.12	6.2
Registered nurses	30.45	4.4	32.19	6.6	26.97	7.3
Teachers, college and university	35.30	10.3	36.31	17.6	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	28.63	3.5	—	—	30.29	2.6
Elementary school teachers	29.96	4.5	—	—	29.96	4.5
Secondary school teachers	30.40	.9	—	—	30.40	.9
Teachers, special education	34.24	1.1	—	—	34.24	1.1
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	15.94	10.2	—	—	13.00	3.5
Social workers	16.28	10.2	—	—	13.26	4.4
Lawyers and judges	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	17.52	12.1	17.19	14.7	—	—
Technical	20.73	9.2	22.07	9.8	15.99	6.5
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	17.59	9.0	17.88	9.2	—	—
Licensed practical nurses	15.88	3.3	—	—	—	—
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	15.72	12.5	16.13	17.7	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	33.16	7.0	32.97	8.1	33.82	13.0
Executives, administrators, and managers	39.75	7.0	40.45	8.9	37.86	11.7
Administrators and officials, public administration	52.74	22.1	—	—	52.74	22.1
Administrators, education and related fields	36.66	3.8	—	—	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	45.79	14.1	45.79	14.1	—	—
Management related	24.42	7.9	24.57	8.4	23.54	18.4
Accountants and auditors	27.62	10.0	29.47	8.5	—	—
Management related, n.e.c.	27.22	6.1	—	—	—	—
Sales	15.40	18.4	15.40	18.4	—	—
Supervisors, sales	12.73	21.3	12.73	21.3	—	—
Cashiers	6.57	7.6	6.57	7.6	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	12.33	5.6	12.40	7.1	12.11	6.5
Secretaries	13.34	6.3	13.56	10.4	13.04	5.0
Receptionists	7.98	11.5	—	—	—	—
Records clerks, n.e.c.	12.23	18.7	—	—	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	11.60	15.9	10.28	18.0	—	—
Dispatchers	18.07	26.1	—	—	16.27	7.4
Stock and inventory clerks	9.25	11.8	—	—	—	—
General office clerks	10.80	8.8	10.97	11.4	10.49	13.2
Teachers' aides	9.55	3.3	—	—	—	—
Administrative support, n.e.c.	17.46	15.9	—	—	12.14	3.8
Blue collar	14.54	4.5	14.93	5.2	12.44	4.4
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.53	3.8	19.57	4.3	14.66	2.5
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	16.09	6.1	—	—	13.70	5.8
Supervisors, production	18.33	11.7	18.44	12.0	—	—
Water and sewer treatment plant operators	11.77	3.2	—	—	11.77	3.2
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.21	5.5	13.27	5.7	—	—
Welders and cutters	16.74	3.5	16.74	3.5	—	—
Transportation and material moving	14.60	7.7	14.79	8.4	13.10	5.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings¹, all workers²: Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, New Orleans, LA, December 2004 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Blue collar —Continued						
Transportation and material moving —Continued						
Truck drivers	\$13.88	24.6	—	—	—	—
Bus drivers	13.34	1.7	—	—	\$13.34	1.7
Sailors and deckhands	10.99	7.8	\$10.99	7.8	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers						
Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm	9.81	6.5	10.04	8.0	8.82	5.2
Construction laborers	7.72	10.8	—	—	7.49	11.8
Stock handlers and baggers	7.78	15.1	—	—	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	9.18	15.9	9.18	15.9	—	—
	9.59	8.8	9.65	9.3	—	—
Service						
Protective service	8.30	6.7	7.52	7.8	11.16	3.4
Supervisors, police and detectives	12.21	8.4	8.44	19.8	13.43	4.5
Firefighting	19.79	4.1	—	—	19.79	4.1
Police and detectives, public service	11.21	9.5	—	—	11.21	9.5
Correctional institution officers	15.86	4.5	—	—	16.07	5.0
Guards and police, except public service	9.74	3.7	—	—	9.74	3.7
Food service	7.96	13.2	7.96	19.0	—	—
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	7.40	16.9	7.33	17.2	—	—
Other food service	4.19	32.9	4.19	32.9	—	—
Cooks	9.28	7.1	9.22	7.4	—	—
Kitchen workers, food preparation	10.37	5.9	—	—	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	7.00	10.6	6.74	10.0	—	—
Health service	10.76	20.7	10.79	21.2	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	8.04	6.5	7.72	5.1	—	—
Cleaning and building service	7.66	7.1	—	—	—	—
Maids and housemen	7.51	5.5	7.25	6.1	8.73	3.1
Janitors and cleaners	7.16	4.4	7.16	4.5	—	—
Personal service	7.41	9.2	6.95	11.4	8.81	3.6
Attendants, amusement, and recreation facilities	8.39	6.3	9.07	12.7	—	—
	8.36	7.8	—	—	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group², National Compensation Survey, New Orleans, LA, December 2004

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
	Mean					
All occupations	\$17.86	\$7.45	\$16.34	\$16.81	\$16.81	\$15.39
All excluding sales	17.88	7.47	16.61	16.84	16.88	14.34
White collar	22.84	11.25	18.15	22.33	22.29	21.14
White-collar excluding sales	23.24	13.21	22.56	22.88	22.84	—
Professional specialty and technical	27.84	17.66	—	27.45	27.50	—
Professional specialty	29.99	18.54	—	29.58	29.68	—
Technical	20.96	—	—	20.73	20.73	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	33.28	12.58	—	33.16	33.25	—
Sales	17.45	7.20	—	15.98	14.59	—
Administrative support, including clerical	12.52	8.46	—	12.28	12.33	—
Blue collar	14.77	8.89	17.27	13.70	14.53	—
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.55	—	20.69	17.54	18.89	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.39	—	—	12.75	13.21	—
Transportation and material moving	14.75	12.55	14.68	14.57	14.29	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	10.11	—	13.04	9.02	9.81	—
Service	9.32	5.91	—	8.26	8.45	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	4.6	9.6	8.5	5.2	5.1	25.4
All excluding sales	4.7	10.6	7.8	5.5	5.0	30.5
White collar	4.4	15.0	19.6	4.4	5.1	34.7
White-collar excluding sales	4.7	14.8	6.8	4.6	4.6	—
Professional specialty and technical	4.7	14.3	—	4.8	4.4	—
Professional specialty	5.8	14.5	—	6.0	5.6	—
Technical	9.5	—	—	9.2	9.2	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	7.0	47.6	—	7.0	7.0	—
Sales	17.2	9.4	—	18.3	24.7	—
Administrative support, including clerical	5.8	9.5	—	5.7	5.6	—
Blue collar	4.1	16.1	8.8	6.8	4.5	—
Precision production, craft, and repair	3.8	—	6.7	7.8	3.5	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	5.3	—	—	5.3	5.5	—
Transportation and material moving	8.0	5.3	12.9	9.0	8.3	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	6.1	—	10.3	5.1	6.5	—
Service	6.7	10.1	—	7.3	5.6	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information (in full publication).

³ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A in full publication.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

Table 3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group², private industry, National Compensation Survey, New Orleans, LA, December 2004

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations	\$16.31	\$14.26	\$17.11	\$15.68	\$19.16
All excluding sales	16.36	14.02	17.17	15.66	19.31
White collar	22.02	18.41	23.68	21.78	25.27
White-collar excluding sales	22.88	19.29	24.17	22.24	25.69
Professional specialty and technical	28.33	19.61	30.21	29.74	30.45
Professional specialty	31.03	14.90	35.03	33.23	35.90
Technical	22.07	—	19.95	23.08	18.14
Executive, administrative, and managerial	32.97	36.04	31.30	28.40	34.87
Sales	15.40	15.89	14.22	16.53	—
Administrative support, including clerical	12.40	10.36	13.34	13.14	13.56
Blue collar	14.93	13.30	15.30	14.95	16.71
Precision production, craft, and repair	19.57	17.99	20.06	20.11	19.99
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.27	—	14.53	14.22	15.60
Transportation and material moving	14.79	—	15.35	15.38	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	10.04	—	10.29	10.41	9.65
Service	7.52	7.74	7.41	6.84	7.98
	Relative error ⁴ (percent)				
All occupations	6.4	12.0	10.5	12.0	13.0
All excluding sales	6.7	11.8	10.7	12.3	12.9
White collar	6.3	17.8	8.9	13.7	11.7
White-collar excluding sales	6.4	20.2	9.2	14.7	11.7
Professional specialty and technical	7.2	22.6	8.1	11.3	12.6
Professional specialty	9.7	6.4	9.1	12.4	12.4
Technical	9.8	—	7.2	15.2	8.5
Executive, administrative, and managerial	8.1	12.2	10.1	15.4	11.0
Sales	18.4	25.0	19.8	16.4	—
Administrative support, including clerical	7.1	14.4	6.9	10.3	9.7
Blue collar	5.2	17.9	6.9	6.8	12.9
Precision production, craft, and repair	4.3	25.1	7.2	7.4	10.9
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	5.7	—	7.0	7.7	12.7
Transportation and material moving	8.4	—	7.6	8.0	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	8.0	—	9.5	8.6	27.8
Service	7.8	16.0	5.5	8.9	6.6

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information (in full publication).

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain

establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A in full publication.

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